

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IGA-02 EB-11 /118 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN LAPEZZULLO:TK

7/11/73 20630

APPROVED BY ARA-LA HWSHLAUDEMAN

ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

LA/MRSD/L:GPHILLIPS

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P 112158Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135666

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ES

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF AIFLD PROGRAM

REF: STATE 129702

1.ON JULY 9, HURWITCH, SHLAUDEMAN, LAZAR AND PHILLIPS MET WITH BILL DOHERTY AND ANDY MC CLELLAN TO DISCUSS THE TERMINATION OF THE AIFLD PROGRAM IN EL SALVADOR. THE FOLLOWING DAY, SALVADORAN CHARGE JUAN SCAFFINI WAS INVITED TO THE OFFICE OF CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS, AT WHICH TIME THE USG CONCERNS OUTLINED IN REFTEL WERE BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION. SCAFFINI SAID HE WAS UNAWARE THAT THE AIFLD CONTRACT HAD BEEN TERMINATED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION FROM HIS GOVERNMENT NOR HAD HE READ ANY REPORT TO THIS EFFECT IN THE SALVADOR PRESS, WHICH HE READS ASSIDUOUSLY. (IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION, NEVERTHELESS, THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE MATTER AT LEAST IN BROAD OUTLINE.) CEN OFFICERS FILLED HIM ON THE DETAILS WHICH HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY THE EMBASSY.

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2. HE OFFERED NO EXPLANATION AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE SUCH AN ACTION. CEN OFFICERS MADE CLEAR THAT THE PRECIPITOUS DECISION SIMILARLY HAD CAUGHT US BY SURPRISE. WE ASSURED HIM THAT WHILE WE WERE NOT QUESTIONING THE RIGHT OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO CANCEL THE PROGRAM, WE WERE TAKEN ABACK BY THE SUDDENNESS OF THE

ACTION AND BY LACK OF THAT SORT OF PRIOR CONSULTATION WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD CHARACTERIZED OUR RELATIONS ON THIS AND OTHER PROGRAMS. WE ALSO STATED THE ACTION RAISED QUESTIONS IN WASHINGTON AS TO WHETHER THE GOES HAD SHIFTED FOCUS, SOMEHOW, IN ITS ANNOUNCED PLAN TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THE SMALL FARMER. WE NOTED THAT THE QUESTIONS GENERATED BY THE GOES ACTION COME AT A TIME WHEN AID IS GOING THROUGH THE FINAL PHASES OF APPROVING AUTHORIZATION OF THE GRAINS STABILIZATION LOAN.

3. CAFFINI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR CONCERN AND WOULD CABLE HIS GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY AND REQUEST A FULL REPORT. HE ALSO VOLUNTEERED TO INFORM AMBASSADOR RIVERA TO TAKE UP THE MATTER DURING HIS STOPOVER INSALVADOR ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON FROM THE LIMA MEETING THIS WEEK-END. WE THANKED HIM AND ASKED THAT HE CONVEY TO AMBASSADOR RIVERA OUR DESIRE TO MEET WITH HIM SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

4. IN ITS CONTINUING REPORTING ON THIS MATTER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON ANY CONNECTION WHICH MAY EXIST BETWEEN THE UCS MATTER AND ORDEN. WE CONTINUE TO WONDER WHETHER MORE LIES BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION THAN A SURGE OF NATIONALISM OR HEAVY POLITICAL PRESSURE ON MOLINA FROM HIS RIGHT FLANK. AIFLD IS FEARFUL THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY MOVE AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP OF UCS AND DESTROY THE ORGANIZATION AS A VIABLE CAMPESINO MOVEMENT.

AIFLD ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE USE OF THREATS, INTIMIDATION, AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BY LANDOWNERS AGAINST INDIVIDUAL UCS LEADERS.

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ROGERS

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